

# DODGE COUNTY SUPPORTS

## The JUDGESHIP BILL, AB 393

MADISON, WI, OCTOBER 23, 2007

### To the Honorable Members of WISCONSIN ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON CORRECTIONS AND THE COURTS

Representative Garey Bies (Chair)

Representative Phil Montgomery (Vice-Chair)

Representative Dean Kaufert

Representative Carol Owens

Representative Mark Gundrum

Representative Daniel LeMahieu

Representative Joseph Parisi

Representative Mark Pocan

Representative Sheldon Wasserman

Representative Sindy Pope-Roberts

Representative Donna Seidel

# Table of Contents

<u>Item</u>	<u>Page</u>
<u>Dodge County Fact Sheet</u>	1
Judge Bissonnette's letter	2
Dodge County District Attorney's letter	4
Judge Bissonnette's wife's letter	6
Attorney Eric Becker's letter	7
Attorney Dawn Klockow's letter	9
Attorney Ken Quincey's letter	11
Thomas Malesevich's letter	12
<u>Dodge County Caseload Chart</u>	13
- Caseload - Explanatory Notes	14
Clerk of Court's Letter – Lynn Hron	15
Register in Probate's letter	16
Branch 1 Judicial Assistant's letter	17
Branch 2 Judicial Assistant's letter	18
Chief Judge John Storck's letter	20

## **Dodge County Judicial Need- Fact Sheet**

- 1) Dodge County has been served by 3 judges since 1962, and both the population of the county and the courts' caseload have grown significantly since then.
- 2) Dodge County has the largest population, 89,138, of any of the nine counties currently served by 3 Circuit Court Judges. The other eight counties average 69,946, or 19,192 fewer than Dodge County. (But note that population alone doesn't establish judicial need.)
- 3) Dodge County has a ratio of 29,712 residents per judge, one of the 4 or 5 highest such ratios in the entire state. If the judge bill passed, Dodge County would still have the highest such ratio of any of the counties in the judge bill, at 22,284 residents per judge.
- 4) The number of cases for the Dodge County Circuit Court Judges has increased by approximately 50% in just the last ten years....see chart at Page 13 herein;
- 5) Reliable statistics exhaustively developed by the National Center for State Courts establish a judicial need of 4.9 judges based on the 2006 Dodge County caseload. Dodge County has .66 court commissioner service. Even when that is considered, Dodge County has one of the highest caseloads per judge in the state.
- 6) Dodge County is the only county in the state with 4 prisons, which prisons provide a steady flow of criminal cases such as prison assault, escape, and prison drug cases. Apart from criminal cases, we had 102 inmate petitions filed in Dodge County last year, seeking review of prison disciplinary decisions, redress for various claimed conditions of confinement, and John Doe petitions filed by inmates.
- 7) In 2000, Dodge County completed construction of a new courthouse with 4 jury-box-equipped courtrooms and a fifth court commissioner courtroom. We have all of the ancillary office space ready to meet the needs of a fourth Circuit Court Judge and staff.
- 8) In December, 2006, the Dodge County Board voted 37-0 (and one abstention) in favor of creating a 4<sup>th</sup> judgeship for Dodge County. The Dodge County District Attorney strongly supports creating a 4<sup>th</sup> judgeship, so that criminal cases can proceed on a faster track. This helps victims in a number of significant ways.

**BRANCH THREE**  
**DODGE COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT**  
**ANDREW P. BISSONNETTE, CIRCUIT JUDGE**

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October 23rd, 2007

Honorable Members of the Wisconsin Assembly  
Committee on Corrections and the Courts

RE: AB 393- the Judgeship Bill

Dear Chairman Bies and Members of the Committee,

I have had the privilege to serve the people of Dodge County as a Circuit Court Judge for over 18 years now. The work is interesting and it demands my best efforts on a daily basis. It isn't an easy job, but it is a satisfying job.

I would probably be diagnosed as a workaholic, as I always seem able to call forth that extra effort to do my job, day or night, weekday or weekend. However, for some time now, I have been feeling the strains that might usually be associated with burnout, and that is not good. The caseload has grown tremendously over the years, and I can actually feel the full weight of it now.

I feel it in the morning when I arrive at 7:00 Am and look at my calendar and see that every possible nook and cranny on the calendar has been booked in, almost as if we had done it with a shoehorn. I feel the caseload when I see that we have double booked certain time slots, and know that I will be juggling several cases at a time during portions of the day. I feel the caseload when I hear litigants or lawyers express dissatisfaction with how long it will take to get them back into court for their hearings. I know that if any of the cases take any longer than expected, the work will be cutting into my lunchtime of 12 noon to 12:30 PM. I can't even guess how many times I have had either no time left, or maybe 5 minutes, to eat my lunch.

As the day passes, I see papers and letters and briefs stacking up on my desk, and realize that I won't be able to properly attend to them until well after the courthouse has closed for the day, or perhaps very early the next morning...or maybe on the weekend. There is usually very little time for paperwork during my average workday,

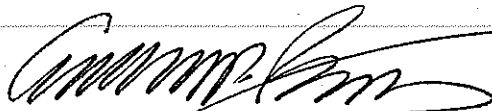
and no time at all for such things as reading the latest bar journal or appellate court cases. I feel the weight of the caseload at 5:30 or 6:00 pm as I get ready to go home and see what a small dent I have made in the stacks that have come in during the week. I may see a presentence investigation report that needs to be read before a heavy duty sentencing the next day or so, and that will get slipped into my briefcase for reading at home that night.

Finally I feel the caseload at home, when my wife is trying to talk to me about our family and I find myself distracted about something that didn't get done at work...or as I lay down to bed, but then get up to write yet another post-it note to remind me about something else that needs to get done first thing in the morning.

Judge Storck, Judge Klossner and I have done our very level best to try to keep this caseload moving forward, to try to do justice in each case, to let people know that they have been heard, and that we actually care. But gosh, that is difficult when we each have essentially a judge and a half's worth or cases to manage.

There hasn't been a judgeship bill passed in over 10 years, and so counties like Dodge, and judges like us, feel the worst effects of an under-manned system. You don't have to make my job easy...just make the workload humanly tolerable before I crash and burn.

Thank you so much for your consideration,

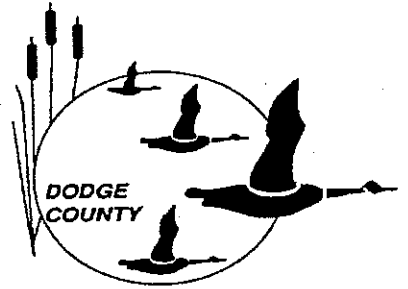
A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Andrew P. Bissonnette', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Andrew P. Bissonnette

# OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY

Steven G. Bauer, District Attorney

Dodge County Justice Facility • 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor • 210 W. Center Street • Juneau, Wisconsin 53039  
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8/24/2007

Senator Lena Taylor  
Senator Jim Sullivan  
Senator Kathleen Vinehout  
Senator Glenn Grothman  
Senator Mary Lazich  
Fond du Lac Court House  
160 S. Macy Street  
Fond du Lac, WI 54935

RE: Wisconsin Senate Bill 199

Dear Senators:

Please accept my strong support for passage of Senate Bill 199 which would create an additional judgeship in Dodge County. An additional judge is critical to maintain a functioning justice system in Dodge County.

Although our current judges work long hours and have made substantial changes in case processing procedures to increase efficiency, their current caseload is way too high for the justice system to work effectively. This high caseload means long waits before being able to bring a case to trial. Delay to trial is a weapon of the defense bar. Memories fade and witnesses are lost. Although our judges are very sensitive to this issue and schedule criminal cases as soon as possible, the unpreventable delay works a disservice to the victims of crime and to community safety.

I have been practicing law in Dodge County since 1992, and the caseloads have increased considerably. Although new technology has assisted clerks with handling the increased caseload, ultimately judges need to interact with defendants to process cases, be it with pleas or through trials, and technology has done little and will do little to reduce the judicial time needed to process a case through the system. There will always be the need for the interactive plea colloquy between judge and defendant, or the interactive relationship between judge and jury.

**Assistant District Attorneys**  
Gilbert G. Thompson  
Kurt F. Klomberg  
James T. Sempf  
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Robert G. Barrington  
**Victim/Witness**  
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John Hartman  
Peggy Beier  
**Legal Assistants**  
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Senate Committee of Judiciary and Corrections Letter

8/24/2007

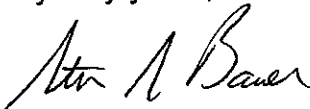
Page Two

Finally, I am concerned that our judges are going to burn-out. Our judges are required to function at a relentless pace which I believe is physically and mentally unsustainable. This pace will eventually impact the amount of preparation time that they are able to spend on a case, and will negatively impact their ability to make the important decisions that they make each day that impact individuals, families, and communities around Wisconsin. We should not allow that to happen in Wisconsin.

It is time to spend the money on our judicial system. It is money well spent, and money for which the taxpayers in Wisconsin will receive a large return on their investment. Again, I strongly support Senate Bill 199, and I urge your support and I hope that you will all work hard to get it passed.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact me.

Very truly yours,



Steven G. Bauer  
District Attorney  
Dodge County

mc:SGB

Oct 23, 2007

Re: Supporting fourth Judge for Dodge County

Dear Members of Assembly Committee on Corrections and the Courts,

I am writing today in regard to the need for a fourth judge in Dodge County. My husband, Andrew Bissonnette, has been serving as a Dodge County judge since 1989. He has always worked hard at this job and really takes his responsibility to the people of Dodge County very seriously.

In his 18 years of service he has rarely worked an 8:00 to 4:30 day (the Courthouse hours). He is usually at the office before 7:00 and usually works past 5:00, closer to 6:00. He never takes more than a half hour for lunch, and usually less. He has almost never taken a sick day even when he's sick. It has become routine that he will go into the office for at least a half day on the weekend. He frequently has to bring work home in the evening. **The reason for this constant working is that there is too much work in the Dodge County Courts for three judges.**

A good judge is patient, conscientious, thoughtful and thorough. These are words I think describe my husband. However, it becomes more and more difficult to maintain these qualities while buried under this unrelenting workload for years. I have heard in the news that some of the legislators question why judges are carrying so much unused sick pay. You should ask any judge or his wife because the answer is so simple. They can't afford to miss a day of work even if they're sick and add any more to the backlog of work waiting for them. Now the legislature wants to punish them for this.

To add insult to injury, the state keeps tabs on each judge's caseload and expects that cases will be handled within certain time limits. This would be quite reasonable given a reasonable workload, but in Dodge County the caseload is not reasonable! Andy has missed many judicial education opportunities because of the pressure of his caseload. He has had to curtail his contributions to committee work because he doesn't have any discretionary time.

If the state wants to retain experienced, dedicated, high quality judges, it can't keep working them to death. **Please support a fourth judge in Dodge County.**

Very sincerely,



Deborah Bissonnette  
903 Sunset Lane  
Horicon, WI. 53032



**QUINCEY, BECKER, SCHUESSLER & CHASE, S.C.**

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**REPLY TO: Beaver Dam**

August 23, 2007

Wisconsin State Senate  
Committee of Judiciary & Corrections  
Attn: Senator Lena Taylor, Chairperson  
Post Office Box 7882  
Madison, WI 53707-7882

RE: SB 199-The Judgeship Bill

Dear Senators:

I am writing you as an "old" member (32 years) of the Dodge County Bar and I am asking that you support SB 199. This Bill provides for the creation of 7 new judgeships in Wisconsin, including one for Dodge County. The addition of a fourth judgeship in Dodge County is long overdue and will greatly enhance the delivery of judicial services to the county's residents. The three judges are diligent jurists but matters, especially civil matters, take too long to calendar whether it be trials or motions. It is most difficult to explain to clients that trials may be scheduled out 12 to 18 months and motions cannot be heard for 3 or 4 months.

I stress to you this fourth judgeship in Dodge County is long overdue. Data collected for your use in determining need has shown that 4.909 judges would be justified by the workload in Dodge County. We have three. Even after considering the court commissioner support which is available to our judges, Dodge County needs 1.418 judges. Dodge County's population is by far the largest among 9 counties served by three circuit court judges. You may be interested to know that the 8 other 3-judge counties have an average population of 19,000 people fewer than Dodge County's. In fact, Dodge County has a larger population than one of the three counties who have 4 circuit court judges. This is frustrating for litigants and attorneys.

Further, Dodge County is home to four prisons which add tremendously to the workload of our 3 circuit court judges. Dodge County has had 3 circuit judges since 1962 and as you can well imagine over the last 45 years, the population of the county has increased greatly. Finally, we have the physical facility to house a fourth circuit court in our 6 year old courthouse, which has state of the art four jury-ready courtrooms.

You can be comfortable knowing there is substantial community support for a fourth

**QUINCEY, BECKER, SCHUESSLER & CHASE, S.C.**

Senator Lena Taylor  
Page Two  
August 23, 2007

judge in Dodge County. In fact, the Dodge County Board has embraced a fourth judgeship and is prepared to financially support a Branch IV. Our county residents have long supported the three judges we have and I doubt there is any significant opposition to creation of this fourth branch.

I strongly urge your vote in support of SB 199.

Sincerely,

**QUINCEY, BECKER,  
SCHUESSLER & CHASE, S.C.**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Eric L. Becker', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Eric L. Becker

ELB:jaw  
cc: Hon. John R. Storck

Attorney Dawn N. Klockow  
503 Judson Drive  
Beaver Dam, WI 53916

August 22, 2007

The Honorable Lena Taylor  
Room 415 South  
State Capitol  
P.O. Box 7882  
Madison, WI 53707-7882

The Honorable Glenn Grothman  
Room 20 South  
State Capitol  
P.O. Box 7882  
Madison, WI 53707-7882

The Honorable Jim Sullivan  
Room 15 South  
State Capitol  
P.O. Box 7882  
Madison, WI 53707-7882

The Honorable Mary Lazich  
Room 109 South  
State Capitol  
P.O. Box 7882  
Madison, WI 53707-7882

The Honorable Kathleen Vinehout  
Room 104 South  
State Capitol  
P.O. Box 7882  
Madison, WI 53707-7882

RE: Wisconsin Senate Bill 199 - Addition of a Circuit Court Branch in Barron,  
Chippewa, Dodge, Green, Juneau, Monroe, and St. Croix counties.

Dear Senators:

I am writing to you to ask for the Committee's support of Wisconsin Senate Bill 199, which would add a fourth Circuit Court Branch in Dodge County, Wisconsin. I am an Assistant Corporation Counsel for Dodge County, and have held this position since March 10, 2003. As you are aware, Wisconsin Corporation Counsel Offices have statutory mandated duties that quite often bring me, Attorney Zev D. Kianovsky and Corporation Counsel John F. Corey before the Circuit Court. These areas include prosecution of Chapter 51, Mental Health and Alcohol Commitments; Chapter 48 and 948, Children in Need of Protection and Services; and Chapter 54 and 55, Guardianship and Protective Placement petitions. I am responsible for the prosecution of Chapter 51 cases. Chapter 51 cases have strict statutory timelines that must be followed. For example, when a police officer takes a mentally ill individual into custody a probable cause hearing must be scheduled within 72 hours of the detention at a mental health facility. Also, once probable cause is met, a final hearing must be heard within 14 days of the individual's detention. Often times, it is not overly difficult to schedule a probable cause hearing, but there are times when the court's calendar is so full that we have to "stack" hearings together. Unfortunately, when this happens many times the court's calendar will become "backed-up" and

other hearings are pushed backwards. In addition, there are times that due to the court's busy calendar when an individual asserts their right to a jury trial for a final hearing, that the court will have to cancel other hearings to accommodate a half-day or all-day jury trial.

Senators, Dodge County has three excellent and hard-working judges on the bench. However, although each of our judges is dedicated and hard working, they are unfortunately performing the work of five judges, even after factoring in the assistance provided by our various court commissioners. A recent State study revealed that Dodge County is in need of 4.909 judicial officers. The study also revealed that Dodge County would benefit from an additional 1.418 judges for each current sitting judge. With numbers like these, it is easy to understand why our judges have packed calendars, an expanding caseload, and are struggling to keep their calendars and their cases moving along at a timely pace.

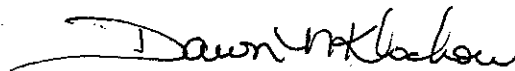
Please also consider that Dodge County is unique. It is the only county in the State that houses four State prisons, which provides for a steady flow of prisoner litigation, and prosecutions of prisoners while incarcerated, etc. This steady flow of legal work affects only the Court, but the Clerk's Office (which employs a clerk who is responsible for prisoner litigation), and the District Attorney as well.

Dodge County's increase in population also supports an additional Circuit Court Branch. According to the Dodge County Clerk's Official Directory for Dodge County, the population has increased 12.2% from the 1990 (76,559) to the 2000 (85,897) census. Our current estimated population is 88,600, which represents a 15% increase from 1990, and we are continuing to grow. Not only is Dodge County's population greater than one of the three counties with four Circuit Court Judges, it has also approximately 19,000 more residents than the other nine counties with three Circuit Court judges.

I would also invite the Committee to tour our state-of-the-art, six-year-new courthouse. It currently has five branches, and four jury-ready courtrooms. When built, the County had the foresight to know that it would require an additional judge in the very near future. The Court uses the fifth branch primarily for family law cases, and up until recently, the Court used it for traffic intake court. But, because of the increased traffic and municipal ordinance caseload, traffic intake court had to be moved to our Branch Four courtroom.

I respectfully urge the Committee to vote favorably on Wisconsin Senate Bill 199.

Very truly yours,



Dawn N. Klockow  
Assistant Corporation Counsel

DNK

**QUINCEY, BECKER, SCHUESSLER & CHASE, S.C.**

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**REPLY TO: Beaver Dam**

August 22, 2007

Wisconsin Senate Committee of Judiciary and Corrections  
P.O. Box 7882  
Madison, WI 53707-7882

RE: Senate Bill 199

Dear Honorable Committee Members:

I am writing to you in regard to the pending Senate Bill 199. While I would much prefer to appear before you personally to convey my position regarding this bill, scheduling problems limit me to using a written presentation instead.

I have been practicing law in Dodge County, Wisconsin, since 1970. Dodge County has always had three judges (since 1962), even though our county houses four prisons which generate a steady and sometimes overwhelming flow of legal work. Over the years, I have done work for prisoners in our court system and gained a real appreciation for the amount of court time that is consumed in the Dodge County Court system just on prisoner related legal matters.

I am also aware of the fact that Dodge County is the largest county of any of the nine counties served by three circuit court judges. Dodge County's population is nearly 89,000 and the average population for the other counties is under 70,000. Our judiciary and the supporting system have recently moved into a state-of-the-art six-year-old courthouse which was built to house four circuit court judges.

As a practicing trial attorney in Dodge County for the past thirty-eight years, I can verify for you that the three circuit court judges that we have had during my tenure in the Dodge County trial system have worked very hard to keep up with the tremendous case loads that each of them bears. It is my understanding that a recent State study indicates that Dodge County has a need for nearly five judicial officers. I am strongly convinced that it is time for Dodge County to be provided with a fourth circuit court judge. Therefore, I speak in strong support of Senate Bill 199 and urge its passage.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Very truly yours,

**QUINCEY, BECKER, SCHUESSLER & CHASE, S.C.**

  
Ken Quincey

KJQ:ajp

August 22, 2007

State of Wisconsin  
Senate Committee on Judicial and Corrections

RE: Wisconsin Senate Bill 199 (Judgeship Bill)

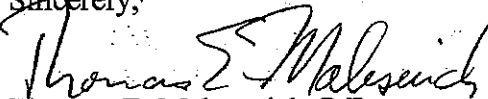
Hon. Committee members,

Sure-Fire is a 60 year old heating, air conditioning and electrical contractor, located in Horicon in Dodge County. I have been involved with the company all my life, being the second generation owner. Regarding the above mentioned Senate Bill, I would support its passage, without reservation, for the following reasons:

- As most businesses can attest, the court system will be used occasionally regarding late payments, etc. Our experience with regards to Dodge County is that procedures could be timelier.
- Some unique conditions of our County lead to its heavy use. With more prison systems than most counties, there is no shortage of "housekeeping" issues.
- For as long as I can remember, there have only been 3 judges in our County. With the growth in the population, and the increased litigation I've seen, to remain at 3 judges doesn't seem adequate.
- When we use the court system of other counties, for example Fond du Lac County, it seems unusual to find 5 judges with a population of only about 10,000 people more than Dodge County. Just a simple ratio of judges to population would indicate at least 4 judges for Dodge County.
- I know that the County has the facility to support a fourth judge. There are four courtrooms with support rooms in place now, in a relatively new, secure building.
- As a personal friend of the Hon. John Storck, Branch 2, I often marvel at the extra time he spends at his job. With the absence of the Hon. Dan Klossner, due to his recovery from surgery, the load has been even greater.

These are my personal observations as a citizen and business owner in Dodge County that would indicate the addition of a fourth judge to our court system.

Sincerely,



Thomas E. Malesevich, P.E.  
President

# Dodge County Circuit Court Caseload History (Cases Filed)

CASELOAD	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Felonies	294	304	244	298	415	357	438	463	428	484	414	392
Criminal traffic & Misdemeanors	1,050	1,002	1,091	1,269	1,488	1,254	1,418	1,782	1,800	1,579	1,588	1,690
Contested traffic & FO's	1,194	1,552	1,559	1,696	1,623	1,517	1,894	1,801	2,324	2,244	2,112	2,323
Guardianship	112	102	102	97	73	83	99	84	80	101	112	106
Probate	390	279	288	294	280	268	265	241	279	333	300	322
Adoptions	40	42	56	36	38	32	74	65	57	28	36	45
Mental Commitments	112	120	130	131	131	128	172	138	131	129	146	172
Civil actions	607	571	665	659	560	562	653	671	749	628	736	782
Small Claims	898	1,058	1,166	1,134	1,100	1,177	1,277	1,223	1,216	1,348	1,339	1,550
Family Cases	433 338D	465 362D	434 381D	433 329D	434 313D	572 369D	486 323D	530 345D	502 343D	463 304D	523 355D	535 352D
*Juvenile Cases	*212	243	259	271	303	268	293	357	302	211	230	250
Paternities	148	139	144	175	171	157	174	204	150	147	158	131
Total	5,490	5,877	6,138	6,493	6,616	6,316	7,243	7,559	8,008	7,695	7,694	8,298

◆ Prepared by Judge Andrew Bissonnette ◆

### Explanatory notes

Figures are available to distinguish criminal traffic (CT) (eg. OWI, OAR, Fleeing) from other misdemeanors (CM) (eg. battery, disorderly conduct, worthless checks). Of the total 2006 misdemeanor count of 1,690 there were 626 CT's and 1,064 CM's.

The "Family Cases" include both divorces and child support actions where no divorce is involved. The actual count on divorce cases is indicated by the "D" number.

Contested traffic represents not guilty pleas only. The "FO's" are non-traffic civil citations. The 409 "JO's" were civil citations issued in 2006 to juveniles for such things as truancy, curfew violations, underage drinking, etc. There were a total of 13,370 traffic citations (TR's), FO's and JO's filed in the clerk's office in 2006, of which 2,323 plead not guilty and asked for trials. Those included 1,934 TR's, 365 FO's, and 28 JO's.

Respectfully submitted,

Judge Andrew Bissonnette



Office of  
**LYNN M. HRON**  
**DODGE COUNTY CLERK OF COURTS**

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August 28, 2007

Honorable Members of the Wisconsin  
Senate Judiciary Committee

RE: Wisconsin Senate Bill 199

Dear Senators,

I have been the Clerk of Courts in Dodge County for the last 4 years. Prior to being elected, I was employed as a Deputy Clerk for more than 20 years here.

By this time you've already been supplied with facts and figures about Dodge County supporting our need for a fourth judge. This letter is to relay to you my observations both as an employee and elected official.

When I began working for the county, judges would go on the bench at 9:00 am, take an hour lunch break, and end the work day "on time" except when jury trials were running late. There has been a steady increase in the amount of time our judges need to be in court with their increased workload. Court now routinely begins at 8:00 am. Lunch breaks, when they occur, are 30 minutes at best. The courthouse officially closes at 4:30 pm, however, often times court is still in session well beyond that time.

Senate Judiciary Committee  
Page Two  
August 28, 2007

Work does not stop when a judge leaves the bench for the day. They have at any given time volumes of files in their chambers that need addressing. We in the clerk's office sometimes joke that a Judicial Assistant will need a cart to take their respective judge his files from our office that need to be reviewed, signed, etc. We don't laugh, however, when the JA returns with the same amount of files back from the judge!

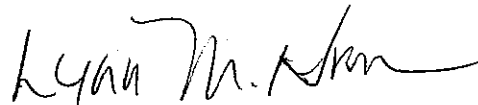
A few years ago a review was conducted in Dodge County by Robert Brick from the Office of Court Operations along with several District Court Administrators. That review resulted in various procedural changes designed to increase efficiency. Even after implementing the many changes, our judges still maintain heavy calendars with no end in sight. No amount of systemic modification will add days to the over-crowded calendars our judges have.

Judges, court reporters, and clerks cannot be expected to do quality work when putting in the hours they've consistently been required to do. Sacrificing quality for quantity should not have a place in the judicial system.

Please support Senate Bill 199.

Thank you for your attention. You may contact me at any time.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lynn M. Hron". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Lynn M. Hron  
Dodge County Clerk of Courts

**KATHLEEN MUNRO**  
**Register in Probate**  
Dodge County Justice Facility  
210 W Center Street  
Juneau Wisconsin 53039-1091

August 28, 2007

Lynn M. Steger  
Deputy

(920) 386-3550  
FAX (920) 386-3933

E-Mail: Kathleen.Munro@wicourts.gov

Hon. Members of the Wisconsin  
Senate Judiciary Committee

RE: Wisconsin Senate Bill 199

Dear Senators:

I have read many of the letters that you are reviewing today in support of Senate Bill 199.

I have been the Register in Probate in Dodge County for over 20 years and have also seen how hard the Judges are working to try to keep up with their caseloads. Everything you are hearing is true.

My concern is that I have seen people working overtime in their professions, and it is not healthy to continue to work in these conditions without an end in sight. A person just cannot continue working long hours everyday without it eventually breaking them down.

Your support for Senate Bill 199 is their only chance to continue in their profession in the proficient manner they strive for.

Very truly yours,

*Kathleen Munro*

Register in Probate

Branch One  
**DODGE COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT**  
**DANIEL W. KLOSSNER, JUDGE**  
(920) 386-4014 FAX (920) 386-3587  
Dodge County Justice Facility  
210 West Center Street  
Juneau, Wisconsin 53039-1091

Maria Mountin, RPR, RMR  
(920) 386-3233  
Cheryl N. Jung, RPR/CMR  
(920) 386-3540  
Court Reporters

Barbara N. Brandt  
(920) 386-4014  
Judicial Assistant

August 28, 2007

Sen. Lena Taylor  
Sen. Jim Sullivan  
Sen. Kathleen Vinehout  
Sen. Glenn Grothman  
Sen. Mary Lazich

RE: Senate Bill 199

Ladies and Gentlemen:

I am writing this letter urging your support of Senate Bill 199 that would include an additional judge for Dodge County.

I base my request on my direct contact in scheduling for Judge Daniel Klossner and the frustration felt by attorneys who have to wait months to get their matters put on the court's calendar. In order to schedule a one day trial, the first date I would have to make available to parties is February 12, 2008. For multiple day trials, the first time available would be February 26, 2008, and just a few days left in March, 2008. I currently have an extended civil trial that we were not able to get into the court calendar until October of 2008.

We routinely go "on the record" at 8:00 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. Out of county attorneys -- and the visiting/reserve judges who have covered the Branch 1 calendar during Judge Klossner's medical leave -- are incredulous that these times are not available for the judge to review files and take care of his correspondence. I need to schedule matters during these times just to keep files moving along on a timely basis.

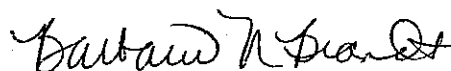
There are many times that attorneys or unrepresented parties laugh when I am trying to get matters scheduled. This is only because they think I am kidding when I tell them a date that is so far into the future. Unfortunately, scheduling months out is a common occurrence.

**Senate Bill 199**  
**August 28, 2007**  
**Page 2**

I believe that the people that the court system is in place to serve deserve timely dispositions of their actions, and passage of Senate Bill 199 which creates an additional judge position for Dodge County would go a long way toward achieving that goal.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Barbara N. Brandt".

Barbara N. Brandt  
Judicial Assistant

BRANCH II  
DODGE COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT  
JOHN R. STORCK, JUDGE  
Dodge County Justice Facility  
210 West Center Street  
Juneau, Wisconsin 53039-1091

Doreen Streblov, RPR  
Court Reporter

(920) 386-3550  
FAX (920) 386-3933  
John.Storck@wicourts.gov

August 28, 2007

Honorable Members of the Wisconsin  
Senate Judiciary Committee

**RE: Wisconsin Senate Bill 199**

As the judicial assistant to Judge John Storck, I am writing this letter asking for your support for a fourth judge in Dodge County. I have worked for Dodge County and Judge Storck for nearly eight years and truthfully enjoy my job because I feel that in my small way I am helping the judicial process and the people in Dodge County.

I like to think that our service to the County is adequate and that the people are getting what they pay for. However, due to the increased caseloads and calendar backlogs, I do not think that we can accomplish that in an efficient manner at all times. Speaking only from my standpoint, I know that in the past eight years my workload has also drastically increased. At any given time, my desk can be best explained as an explosion of files and work – I like to call it job security! When I get to work, I hit the floor running and when I leave I am usually running out the door to catch my carpool.

As Judge Storck's judicial assistant, I do a majority of the scheduling for him and can honestly say that I schedule every minute of the day and then some. I schedule cases at 8:00 a.m. through noon, and then from 12:30 p.m. until 4:30 p.m. The attorneys who are not familiar with our scheduling practices are very often surprised to learn that we actually schedule anything at 8:00 in the morning much less at 12:30 in the afternoon, which generally conflicts with their lunch hours. In many instances we schedule lunch hour meetings for the judges. The three judges try to meet once a week during their one-half hour lunch to discuss issues. We also schedule several lunch hour meetings for the Judges to meet with guardian ad litem, probation and parole representatives, jail personnel, etc. Just the other day Judge Storck did mention that he has to stop having meetings so often during the lunch hour because any small backup in the morning calendar may mean no lunch that day.

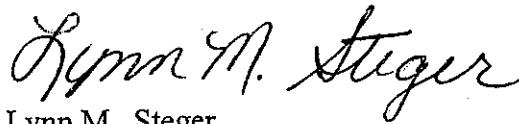
I have learned how to "creatively schedule" Judge Storck's cases scheduling many hearings as "#2" cases in the hope that the "#1" case will settle and then the #2 case can be heard. That is a frequent theme in our calendar; sometimes we get lucky and it works, sometimes it is a re-scheduling nightmare.

Page 2  
August 28, 2007

I see firsthand every day how much work the judges and the other judicial assistants pour into their jobs just to keep up with the ever present paper flow and caseload. I believe that each of our judges does their very best to keep up with the ever demanding, ever increasing caseload, but also believe that a fourth judge would make our County's caseload a little lighter for the judges currently presiding and make Dodge County more efficient.

Thank you for your consideration of the Judgeship Bill.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Lynn M. Steger". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

Lynn M. Steger  
Judicial Assistant, Branch 2

JOHN R. STORCK  
Chief Judge  
Dodge County Circuit Court, Branch 2  
210 West Center Street  
Juneau, WI 53039  
Email: John.Storck@wicourts.gov  
Telephone: (920) 386-3551

STATE OF WISCONSIN

**SIXTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT**

3317 BUSINESS PARK DRIVE, SUITE A  
STEVENS POINT, WISCONSIN 54481-5210

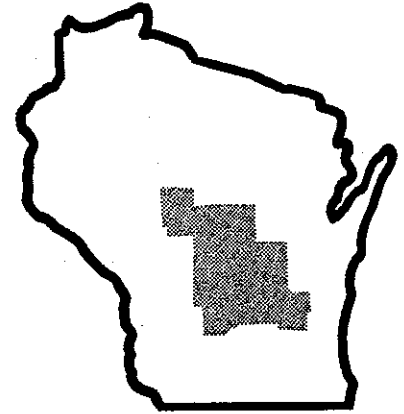
GREGORY J. POTTER  
Deputy Chief Judge  
Wood County Circuit Court, Branch 1  
P.O. Box 8095  
Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54495-8095  
Email: Gregory.Potter@wicourts.gov  
Telephone: (715) 421-8520

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TTY Users: Call WI TRS at 1-800-947-3529

District6.Office@wicourts.gov

RON LEDFORD  
District Court Administrator  
3317 Business Park Drive, Suite A  
Stevens Point, WI 54481  
Email: Ron.Ledford@wicourts.gov  
Telephone: (715) 345-5295



October 22, 2007

TO: The Honorable Members of the Assembly  
Committee on Corrections and Courts

RE: Assembly Bill 393

I am writing in support of passage of Assembly Bill 393 which relates to adding a circuit court branch in Barron, Chippewa, Dodge, Green, Juneau, Monroe and Saint Croix counties. Unfortunately, due to a crowded court calendar on October 23rd, I am unable to attend the public hearing. I would be happy to discuss the judicial need in the study, the judicial need in the Sixth District, and the judicial need in Dodge County with any of the members of your committee.

I am writing in several capacities. First, I was a member of the Workload Assessment Advisory Committee that worked with the National Center of State Courts to complete an analysis of the judicial need in the State of Wisconsin. Second, I am Chief Judge of the Sixth District. There are two counties from the Sixth District included in the Bill, Dodge County and Juneau County. Finally, I am a Circuit Court Judge in Dodge County, one of the counties included in the Bill.

The study of the National Center of State Courts is the basis for the allocation of new judgeships. The last study performed in the State of Wisconsin for judicial need was in 1996. The 2006 study was an enhancement of earlier studies. The 2006 study identified the need for 18 new judges in the State of Wisconsin. This judgeship bill requests only seven. The 2006 study incorporated the recommendations of the Legislative Audit Bureau which were made after the 1996 study was reviewed. I believe the 2006 study is a reliable measure for the judicial need in the State of Wisconsin and is an appropriate basis for the State to provide new judgeships.

The 1996 study did not include the use of court commissioners. That study was criticized because the use of county paid court commissioners was not considered. The 2006 study appropriately included court commissioners. By considering court commissioners the State can allocate judicial resources to those counties where there is the greatest need for judicial officers to provide services to handle the caseloads in the counties where additional judicial officers are needed.



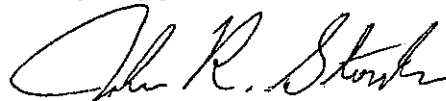
In addition to individual county need, the need of the district was also considered in determining the appropriateness of including a county. Sometimes judges can assist other judges within a district to cover for additional judicial need. That is not possible in the Sixth District because of the high judicial need throughout the district. The Sixth District has a substantial judicial need of 5.4 new judges. With this Bill, the District will be receiving two of the needed 5.4 new judges.

Finally, as a Dodge County Judge, I can testify that all judges in Dodge County work hard and put in extremely long hours. Despite long hours, litigants are not receiving the judicial services that they deserve. Despite long hours, numerous programs which I and the other judges in Dodge County would like to implement in Dodge County cannot be implemented because of the lack of time for judicial leadership.

In the event Dodge County receives the support it needs, I will continue to work hard to provide the services that litigants in Dodge County deserve. Unfortunately, due to inadequate judicial resources, working hard has not been adequate. I ask for your assistance in providing appropriate judicial services for Dodge County, for the Sixth District, for all counties included in the Judge Bill, and for all litigants throughout the State.

Thank you for your support of this important Bill for the judicial system in Wisconsin and for litigants throughout the State.

Very truly yours,



John R. Storck  
Circuit Court Judge Dodge County  
Chief Judge Sixth Judicial District

JRS/lms

Branch One  
**DODGE COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT**  
**DANIEL W. KLOSSNER, JUDGE**  
(920) 386-4014 FAX (920) 386-3587  
Dodge County Justice Facility  
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(920) 386-3540  
Court Reporters

Barbara N. Brandt  
(920) 386-4014  
Judicial Assistant

October 22, 2007

Members of the Legislature

RE: Fourth Circuit Court for Dodge County

Dear Honorable Members of the Legislature:

I have had the pleasure of serving the citizens of the State of Wisconsin, in particular the citizens of Dodge County, as a Circuit Judge for over 23 years. I never asked to become a circuit judge based upon salary or workload. However, the workload has steadily risen over the last 20 plus years and has now reached a level where the amount of work is getting more difficult, if not impossible, to handle.

In talking to attorneys who appear in my court from elsewhere in the state, it seems that Dodge County is the only County that starts at 8:00 a.m. in the morning and only takes a half hour for lunch. It is necessary to schedule at these times due to the high workload and an attempt to conclude the cases within the guidelines.

I respectfully request that you strongly consider a Fourth Circuit Court branch for Dodge County. It has been long needed and will be very much welcomed.

Sincerely yours,



Daniel W. Klossner  
Circuit Court Judge, Branch I

DWK:bnb